Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (**Cancelled**).

2. (**Previously Presented**) The compound of claim 5 wherein n is an integer from 0 to 8.

3. (**Previously Presented**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the target cell is a tumor or inflammatory cell.

4. (**Cancelled**).

5. (**Currently Amended**) A compound comprising:

(1) a therapeutic agent capable of entering a target cell,

(2) an oligopeptide of the formula $(AA)_n$-AA^4-AA^3-AA^2-AA^1, wherein:

each AA independently represents an amino acid,

n is an integer from 0 to 16,

AA^4 represents β-alanine, thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, 2-thienylalanine, 2-naphthylalanine, D-alanine, D-leucine, D-methionine, D-phenylalanine, 3-amino-3-phenylpropionic acid, γ-aminobutyric acid, 3-amino-4,4-diphenylbutyric acid, tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 4-aminomethylbenzoic acid, and aminoisobutyric acid ~~a non-genetically-encoded amino acid~~,

AA^3 represents any amino acid,

AA^2 represents any amino acid, and

AA^1 represents any amino acid,

(3) a negatively charged stabilizing group, and

(4) optionally, a linker group not cleavable by TOP,

wherein the oligopeptide is directly linked to the stabilizing group at the amino terminus of the oligopeptide and the oligopeptide is directly linked to the therapeutic agent or indirectly linked through the linker group to the therapeutic agent at a second attachment site of the oligopeptide,

wherein the stabilizing group reduces acute toxicity of the compound when administered *in vivo*, and

wherein the compound is cleavable by TOP.

6. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein TOP is present in the extracellular vicinity of the target cell for the therapeutic agent.

7. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein TOP cleaves the linkage between AA^3 and AA^2 of the oligopeptide.

8. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 being a prodrug having an active portion, wherein the active portion of the prodrug is more capable of entering the target cell after cleavage by TOP than prior to cleavage by TOP, the active portion including at least the therapeutic agent.

9. (**Withdrawn**) The compound of claim 8 wherein the active portion of the prodrug consists of the therapeutic agent.

10. (**Withdrawn**) The compound of claim 8 wherein the active portion of the prodrug includes the therapeutic agent and at least the linker group.

11. (**Original**) The compound of claim 8 wherein the active portion of the prodrug includes the therapeutic agent and AA^1 of the oligopeptide.

12. (**Withdrawn**) The compound of claim 11 wherein the active portion of the prodrug further comprises AA^2 of the oligopeptide linked to AA^1.

13. (**Previously Presented**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the oligopeptide is selected from the group consisting of: D-AlaThiβAlaβAlaLeuAlaLeu (SEQ ID NO: 1), ThiβAlaβAlaLeuAlaLeu (SEQ ID NO: 2), βAlaβAlaLeuAlaLeu (SEQ ID NO: 3), βAlaLeuTyrLeu (SEQ ID NO: 17), βAlaLeuThiLeu (SEQ ID NO: 18), βAlaLeuThrLeu (SEQ ID NO: 21), βAlaLeuSerLeu (SEQ ID NO: 22), βAlaLeuPyrLeu (SEQ ID NO: 23), βAlaLeuLeuLeu (SEQ ID NO: 24), βAlaLeuGlyLeu (SEQ ID NO: 28), βAlaLeuPheLeu (SEQ ID NO: 31), βAlaLeuAibLeu (SEQ ID NO: 32), and βAlaLeuAlaLeu (SEQ ID NO: 38).

14. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein AA^1 of the oligopeptide is selected from the group consisting of Leucine, Phenylalanine, Isoleucine, Alanine, Glycine,

Tyrosine, 2-Naphthylalanine, Serine, p-Cl-phenylalanine, p-Nitrophenylalanine, 1-Naphthylalanine, Threonine, Homoserine, Cyclohexylalanine, Thienylalanine, Homophenylalanine, Norleucine, and β-Alanine.

15. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein AA^2 of the oligopeptide is selected from the group consisting of Alanine, Leucine, Tyrosine, Glycine, Serine, 3-Pyridylalanine, 2-Thienylalanine, Norleucine, Homoserine, Homophenylalanine, p-Cl-phenylalanine, p-Nitrophenylalanine, Aminoisobutyric Acid, Threonine, and Phenylalanine.

16. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein AA^3 of the oligopeptide is selected from the group consisting of Leucine, Tyrosine, Phenylalanine, p-Cl-Phenylalanine, p-Nitrophenylalanine, Valine, Norleucine, Norvaline, Phenylglycine, Tryptophan, Tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 3-Pyridylalanine, Alanine, Glycine, Thienylalanine, Methionine, Valine, and Proline.

17. (**Currently Amended**) The compound of claim 1255 wherein AA^4 is selected from the group consisting of β-Alanine, Thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, 2-Thienylalanine, 2-Naphthylalanine, D-Alanine, D-Leucine, D-Methionine, D-Phenylalanine, 3-Amino-3-phenylpropionic acid, γ-Aminobutyric acid, 3-Amino-4,4-diphenylbutyric acid, Tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 4-Aminomethylbenzoic acid, and Aminoisobutyric acid.

18. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the stabilizing group is a dicarboxylic or higher order carboxylic acid.

19. (**Currently Amended**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the stabilizing group is selected from the group consisting of: succinic acid, adipic acid, glutaric acid, phthalic acid, diglycolic acid, fumaric acid, naphthalene dicarboxylic acid, ~~pyroglutamic acid, acetic acid, 1-naphthylcarboxylic acid, 2-naphthylcarboxylic acid,~~ 1,8-naphthyl dicarboxylic acid, aconitic acid, carboxycinnamic acid, triazole dicarboxylic acid, ~~gluconic acid, 4-carboxyphenyl boronic acid, polyethylene glycolic acid,~~ butane disulfonic acid, and maleic acid.

20. (**Withdrawn**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the stabilizing group is a non-genetically encoded amino acid having four or more carbons.

21. (**Withdrawn**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the stabilizing group is one of aspartic acid linked to the oligopeptide at the β-carboxy group of the aspartic acid or glutamic acid linked to the oligopeptide at the γ-carboxy group of the glutamic acid.

22. (**Cancelled**).

23. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the stabilizing group is selected to reduce interaction between the compound and endothelial cells that line blood vessels when administered intravenously to the patient.

24. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of Alkylating Agents, Antiproliferative agents, Tubulin Binding agents, Vinca Alkaloids, Enediynes, Podophyllotoxins or Podophyllotoxin derivatives, the Pteridine family of drugs, Taxanes, Anthracyclines, Dolastatins, Topoiosomerase inhibitors, and Platinum complex chemotherapeutic agents.

25. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of Doxorubicin, Daunorubicin, Vinblastine, Vincristine, Calicheamicin, Etoposide, Etoposide phosphate, CC-1065, Duocarmycin, KW-2189, Methotrexate, Methopterin, Aminopterin, Dichloromethotrexate, Docetaxel, Paclitaxel, Epithiolone, Combretastatin, Combretastatin A4 Phosphate, Dolastatin 10, Dolastatin 11, Dolastatin 15, Topotecan, Camptothecin, Mitomycin C, Porfiromycin, 5-Fluorouracil, 6-Mercaptopurine, Fludarabine, Tamoxifen, Cytosine arabinoside, Adenosine arabinoside, Colchicine, Cisplatin, Carboplatin, Mitomycin C, Bleomycin, Melphalan, Chloroquine, Cyclosporin A, a derivative of any of the foregoing, and an analog of any of the foregoing.

26. (**Original**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the oligopeptide is directly linked to the therapeutic agent.

27. (**Withdrawn**) The compound of claim 5 wherein the oligopeptide sequence is indirectly linked to the therapeutic agent at the second attachment site of the oligopeptide via a linker group, the linker group selected from the group consisting of amino caproic acid, a hydrazide group, an ester group, an ether group, and a sulphydryl group.

28. **(Previously Presented)** A compound selected from the group consisting of Suc-βAla-Leu-Ala-Leu-Dox, Suc-βAla-Leu-Ala-Leu-Dnr, and Glutaryl-βAla-Leu-Ala-Leu-Dox.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The compound of claim 5 wherein the compound is resistant to cleavage by CD10.

30. **(Currently Amended)** A conjugate comprising an oligopeptide of the formula $(AA)_n$-AA^4-AA^3-AA^2-AA^1, wherein: each AA independently represents an amino acid, n is an integer from 0 to 16, AA^4 represents a non-genetically-encoded amino acid, AA^3 represents any amino acid, AA^2 represents any amino acid, and AA^1 represents any amino acid, wherein the oligopeptide is cleavable by TOP, the oligopeptide is linked to a therapeutic agent and the oligopeptide is linked to a negatively charged stabilizing group at the amino terminus of the oligopeptide, wherein the stabilizing group reduces acute toxicity of the conjugate when administered *in vivo*, wherein said non-genetically encoded amino acid is selected β-alanine, thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, 2-thienylalanine, 2-naphthylalanine, D-alanine, D-leucine, D-methionine, D-phenylalanine, 3-amino-3-phenylpropionic acid, γ-aminobutyric acid, 3-amino-4,4-diphenylbutyric acid, tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 4-aminomethylbenzoic acid, and aminoisobutyric acid.

31-36. **(Cancelled)**.

37. **(Currently Amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising

(1) a compound comprising:

(a) a therapeutic agent capable of entering a target cell,

(b) an oligopeptide of the formula $(AA)_n$-AA^4-AA^3-AA^2-AA^1, wherein:

each AA independently represents an amino acid,

n is an integer from 0 to 16,

AA^4 represents β-alanine, thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, 2-thienylalanine, 2-naphthylalanine, D-alanine, D-leucine, D-methionine, D-phenylalanine, 3-amino-3-phenylpropionic acid, γ-aminobutyric acid, 3-amino-4,4-diphenylbutyric acid, tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid, 4-aminomethylbenzoic acid, and aminoisobutyric acid ~~a non-genetically-encoded amino acid~~,

AA^3 represents any amino acid,

AA^2 represents any amino acid, and

AA^1 represents any amino acid,

AA^1 represents any amino acid,

(c) a negatively charged stabilizing group, and

(d) optionally, a linker group not cleavable by TOP,

wherein the oligopeptide is directly linked to the stabilizing group at the amino terminus of the oligopeptide and the oligopeptide is directly linked to the therapeutic agent or indirectly linked through the linker group to the therapeutic agent at a second attachment site of the oligopeptide,

wherein the stabilizing group reduces acute toxicity of the compound when administered *in vivo*, and

wherein the compound is cleavable by TOP,

and (2) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38-117. **(Cancelled).**

118. **(Previously Presented)** The compound of claim 5 wherein the oligopeptide is βAla-Leu-Ala-Leu (SEQ ID NO: 38).

119. **(Previously Presented)** The compound of claim 28 wherein the compound is Suc-βAla-Leu-Ala-Leu-Dox.

120. **(Previously Presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 119 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

121. **(Cancelled).**

122. **(Previously Presented)** The compound of claim 5, wherein the stabilizing group also hinders cleavage of the compound by enzymes present in whole blood.

123. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugate of claim 30, wherein the stabilizing group also hinders cleavage of the conjugate by enzymes present in whole blood.

124. **(Previously Presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 37, wherein the stabilizing group also hinders cleavage of the compound by enzymes present in whole blood.

125. **(New)** A compound comprising:

(1) a therapeutic agent capable of entering a target cell, wherein said therapeutic agent is an alkylating agent, antiproliferative agent, tubulin binding agent, vinca alkaloid, enediyne, podophyllotoxin, podophyllotoxin derivative, a member of the pteridine family of drugs, taxane, dolastatins, topoiosomerase inhibitor, or a platinum complex chemotherapeutic agent;

(2) an oligopeptide of the formula $(AA)_n$-AA^4-AA^3-AA^2-AA^1, wherein:

each AA independently represents an amino acid,

n is an integer from 0 to 16,

AA^4 represents a non-genetically-encoded amino acid,

AA^3 represents any amino acid,

AA^2 represents any amino acid, and

AA^1 represents any amino acid,

(3) a negatively charged stabilizing group, and

(4) optionally, a linker group not cleavable by TOP,

wherein the oligopeptide is directly linked to the stabilizing group at the amino terminus of the oligopeptide and the oligopeptide is directly linked to the therapeutic agent or indirectly linked through the linker group to the therapeutic agent at a second attachment site of the oligopeptide,

wherein the stabilizing group reduces acute toxicity of the compound when administered *in vivo*, and

wherein the compound is cleavable by TOP.